

Last week District Attorney Paul Zellerbach was twice caught removing campaign signs of his opponent.

In addition to this Paul Zellerbach used a county vehicle and the assistance of a county employee to put up his own campaign signs in these same locations.

Mr. Zellerbach then retaliated for being caught by personally attacking a veteran law enforcement officer and his family. His comments were out of place and may have jeopardized the successful prosecution of a triple homicide in Pinyon Pines.

As shocking as this all may seem, this is just another example of unethical behavior by District Attorney Paul Zellerbach. And it is far from his worst violations of the public trust.

In 2007 Paul Zellerbach was admonished when he was a judge by the California Commission on Judicial Performance for attending an Angels playoff game rather than being in his court room to receive a verdict in a murder trial.

In 2011 he was again reprimanded by the State – this time for misusing the office of judge in his campaign for District Attorney. He inappropriately attempted to use his judicial power to collect potentially damaging information about his would be opponent. He was also reprimanded for misusing his office for political fundraising purposes.

This March a federal lawsuit was filed against Paul Zellerbach by one of his top homicide prosecutors for workplace harassment and retaliation because that prosecutor refused to prosecute an innocent man for a murder he did not commit. Words do not properly describe how disgusting Zellerbach's behavior is in that matter.

Paul Zellerbach's long pattern of unethical and reprehensible behavior clearly demonstrates to the Palm Springs Police Officers Association – and the others law enforcement organizations gathered here today – that Paul Zellerbach is unfit to hold the office of District Attorney.

The chief law enforcement officer of Riverside County is expected to uphold all of our laws and pursue justice. He cannot prosecute others for violating the law, while exempting himself from following those same laws. He cannot pursue justice when he has created a culture of fear and intimidation the District Attorney's Office that punishes those who speak up for the innocent and the wrongly accused.

The Palm Springs Police Officers Association therefore asks Paul Zellerbach to immediately resign and step down as District Attorney and to withdraw his candidacy for re-election.

Additionally, we ask that all law enforcement associations, all public safety professionals, and all elected officials to immediately withdraw their endorsement and support of Paul Zellerbach.

Paul Zellerbach has proven himself unethical and unfit to serve as Riverside County's District Attorney. The people of Riverside County deserve better.